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## ART NEWS FROM THE OLD WORLD

✱ According to *Le Temps* the City of Paris has bought from the Old and New Salons the following: At the Société des Artistes Français—Paintings: "Bal Blanc," M. Avy; "Prière du Soir," M. Bellan; "Marchand de Chansons," M. Gilbert; "Etang," M. Buffet; "La Goutte de Lait," M. Geoffroy; "A la Nuit Tombante," M. Cachoud; "Paysage," M. Carl Rosa; "Baigneuses," M. Legrand and "Barques Échauées," M. Ravanne. Sculpture: "Épisode du Siège de Paris," M. Lefevre; "Feuilles d'Automne," M. Colle; "Un Rapt," M. Suchetet; "Enfant en Masque," M. Champigny; and "Danois au Soleil," M. Perrault. At the Société Nationale des Beaux Arts—Paintings: "La Source," M. Dumoulin; "Ma Patronne," Mr. Hawkins; "Une Jeune Femme," Mme. Le Roy d'Etoilles; "En Haut de la Dune," M. P. Carrier-Belleuse; "Falaises à Dieppe," M. Gabriel; "Les Tricoteuses," M. Le Gout-Gerard; and "Le Carrefour Drouot" and "Le Boulevard des Italiens," M. Haubron.

✱ The French government has recently opened a retail shop. It is an ordinary shop, like any other, rather handsome, and on the south side of the Boulevard, below the building of the Crédit Lyonnais. In the windows you see exposed for sale all kinds of beautiful art objects, in particular Sèvres vases, dinner services, tea and coffee cups and saucers, and delicate figurines in porcelain. Behind them are exhibited steel and wood engraving masterpieces, photogravures, and all kinds of the best, process work in picture reproduction, not excluding direct photographs. And standing here and there you see small plaster-of-paris casts of sculptors' masterpieces, modern and ancient. Inside are larger casts, and in glass-covered cabinets are exposed for sale all kinds of medals. The porcelain objects are from the French government manufactory at Sèvres. The casts are taken from the statuary of the great museums. The medals are from the mint. And the photographs and engravings are the work of the celebrated Louvre staff, work that until now has been so difficult to be procured.

✱ The Paris authorities, at the request of the society of art-lovers, Les Amis de Louvre, have agreed to take either into the Louvre or the Luxembourg the famous marble group, "La Danse," which for thirty years has been the chief ornament at the entrance of the Paris Opera House. This exquisite group of dancing nymphs by the lamented Carpeaux was subjected to bitter criticism when first shown, and desecrated as highly improper. It was found one morning in 1869 covered with ink. During the last few years it has been noticed that the marble was being injured by the frost. A copy of the group will replace the original when it is removed.

✱ At the Bernheim Galleries in Paris an exhibition has just been held of the palettes of one hundred modern French artists with the colors arranged as they were used. That of Duere shows a solid paste of pigments; Fantin-Latour's palette is as brilliant as any impressionist could wish; Corot's is full of pearl-grays, while that of Ziem resembles a rainbow. One of the Paris critics remarks that the exhibition is as sadly suggestive of past glories as dusty old armor in the windows of a cheap bric-à-brac shop.

✱ The Imperial Academy of Arts of St. Petersburg is planning for the erection of "a palace of the arts." This building is intended to contain within its walls a home for the widows and orphans of artists, an asylum for aged painters, an industrial-commercial school, with thirty workshops for competitors from the higher art schools, and an enormous hall for the permanent exhibition of Russian works of art. The total cost of this magnificent building, which will be decorated with sculptures and paintings by the best artists in Russia, will be about five hundred thousand dollars. This large outlay will be defrayed by the Russian art societies.

✱ The Czar of Russia is endeavoring to encourage the painters of his land by setting aside six hundred thousand dollars in the imperial budget. Commissions have already been given Simoksj, Norozoff, and Chimoff. So far the subjects deal chiefly with hunting scenes, the object being to preserve accurate portraits of the native animals, which, like our buffalo, are becoming extinct.

✱ The Stadtische Historische Museum, of Frankfort, has unexpectedly secured a valuable collection of silver articles of great importance for the history of the local silversmith's art. They were discovered in an old alms-chest, which was regarded as lumber, according to a London writer. When the chest was broken open, it was found to contain a great number of beautifully ornamented silver mugs, buckles, silver spoons, and similar objects, which bore for the most part the hall-mark of the town, and the private mark of distinguished silversmiths of the early eighteenth century. The origin of the treasure is not yet known, but it has been suggested that it may consist of unredeemed pledges.

✱ Ghent has been having an exhibition of the paintings of Gustave Vanaise, who was born in Ghent, and died in 1902, after painting large historical pictures like "Louise XI. and Oliver le Dain," "The Duke of Alva Sitting to His Portrait by Guillaume de Kay," "Jacques van Artevelde" (now in the Museum at Ghent), and "Saint Lieven—Dicu le Veut." Vanaise had great facility with the brush, and studied Rembrandt, Frans Hals, Jordaens, and Velasquez. His nudes, "Eve" and "Après le Bain," are much admired. Toward the close of his life his portraits made him even more famous in Belgium than his historical pictures.

✱ That the United States has not the monopoly of unsatisfactory competitions is shown by the plaint which comes from England, to the effect that the result of the Liverpool Cathedral competition is "a setback to all faith and trust in competitions, committees, and assessors." It seems that the committee in question awarded the commission to the architect who did not comply with the one condition which had been made—that the plan should permit the seating of three thousand persons near the pulpit without the intervention of a pier—and discarded the work of the four who did.

✱ The collection of pictures and water-colors of the late George Guernsey was sold at Christie's. The sale was poorly attended and the bidding was listless. Fifty-one lots of water-colors and drawings were sold for £3,000. The best price realized was £630 for a small Turner. A pair of drawings by Landseer brought only thirty shillings. Among the pictures sold was Sir Joshua Reynolds's "Portrait of the Marquis of Tavistock," which brought £1,207; a Gainsbrough portrait, which sold for £1,029; Millais's "Diana Vernon," which went for £651; and Raeburn's excellent portrait of James Byers, which was taken at £526. Sir Joshua Reynolds's "Portrait of Lady Stanhope" was sold, after many had left the rooms, for £157 10s.

✱ At a sale in Christie's in London recently six small canvases by Meissonier brought prices that seem extraordinary, in view of the dimensions of the pictures. "A Troop of Cavalry,"  $5\frac{3}{4}$  by  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches, brought \$4,750; "Two Cavaliers Riding,"  $3\frac{1}{2}$  by  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches, \$3,000; "Advance Guard,"  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by 8 inches, \$2,050; "Meissonier Riding Near Auteuil,"  $5\frac{1}{4}$  by  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches, \$4,100; "Un Florentin," 9 by  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches, \$1,250; and "Two Horsemen," the same dimensions as the last named, \$1,000. Two canvases by Corot, at the same sale, brought \$9,500 and \$3,900 respectively, while a Turner went for \$5,500, a Sir Joshua Reynolds for \$600, and Lord Leighton's "Nausicaa" was sold for \$5,050.

✱ A two days' sale of old mezzotint portraits collected by Sir Wilfrid Lawson, at Christie's, was quite the best since the Blythe sale a few years ago. The competition for some of the lots was very keen, especially for the portraits of Mrs. Davenport and Mrs. Carwardine, both very fine impressions after Romney. The first was the work of J. Jones and the other that of J. R. Smith. Messrs. Agnew's representative outbid the opposition for the former, which fetched \$3,255, and Mr. Nosedá, who was the under bidder for the first, secured the print by Smith for \$2,255. Another Smith portrait—also after Romney—of the Countess Gower and family brought \$1,312, the buyer being Mr. Colnaghi, who also secured the first published state of the whole length portrait of Lady Bampfylde, after Sir Joshua Reynolds, for \$1,207.

✱ The prices brought at a recent sale at Christie's in London of the Vaile collection of paintings broke all records. For a portrait

of Mme. du Barry by Boucher, \$11,000; a Diana by the same artist, \$15,750; a portrait of De Noirmont by Sagillière, \$13,000; and a picture of the Countess of Neuburg and her children by the same artist, \$21,750; a "Mars and Venus" by Paul Veronese, \$49,000; a portrait of Mrs. Blair by Romney, \$11,000; a portrait of Giorgio Cornaro by Titian, \$23,000. The sensation of the sale was the purchase by Wertheimer, the dealer, of a small, battered portrait of a lady in a white muslin dress by Gainsborough, for \$47,000. It was a canvas twenty-five by thirty inches, the picture buried beneath many coats of varnish. Some years ago the former owner tried in vain to sell it for \$25.

✱ The death is announced at Seville of José Jimenez of Aranda, whose paintings of court scenes under the directory are well known in this country. He was sixty-five years old, and had been for many years a professor at the Art Academy of Seville. Besides painting innumerable pictures he was an illustrator of note. At the Paris exhibition of 1900 he received a first-class medal for his illustrations for "Don Quixote." He was also the illustrator of Daudet's "Tartarin sur les Alpes."

✱ Luc-Olivier Merson, Roybet, Rochegrosse, Grasset, Besnard, and Raffaelli have made the mural decorations of the new Musée Victor Hugo. The house is the one at the Place des Vosges, where the great poet lived. The woodwork on the walls was by his own hand. There is also a table inlaid by him, with inkstands and manuscripts of Lamartine, George Sand, Alexandre Dumas, and Hugo.

✱ The German emperor has conferred upon John S. Sargent, the American painter, a large gold medal for art in connection with the Berlin art exhibition. A small gold medal was conferred upon Edwin A. Abbey, the American artist.

✱ The city authorities of Venice announce that the new Campanile, as perfect a copy of the old one as can be built, will be finished in 1908. The corner-stone was laid last month with appropriate ceremonies, and the work is now well under way.



## BOOKS RECEIVED

"The Old China Book," by N. Hudson Moore. Frederick A. Stokes Company. \$2.00 net.

"The Law of Mental Medicine," by Thomson Jay Hudson. A. C. McClurg & Co. \$1.20 net.

"Representative Art of Our Time," Part VIII. Edited by Charles Holme. John Lane. \$1.00.

"Masters of English Landscape Painting," J. S. Cotman, David Cox, and Peter DeWint. Edited by Charles Holme. John Lane. \$2.00 net.